



Tanaka

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Takaaki TANAKA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2871

Application No.: 10/076,312

Examiner: T. Ton

Filed: February 19, 2002

Docket No.: 111988

For: LIQUID CRYSTAL DEVICE, PROJECTION DISPLAY DEVICE AND,
MANUFACTURING METHOD FOR SUBSTRATE FOR LIQUID CRYSTAL DEVICE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the September 22, 2003 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-12 and 19 with traverse. In reply to the Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Species Ia as defined in the September 22 Restriction Requirement. Applicants agree with the assessment in the Restriction Requirement that at least claims 7-12 and 19 are generic and that at least claims 1, 2, 5-12 and 19 read on the elected species.

I. Restriction Requirement

Claim 19 is presumably included within Group I, in view of its mention in paragraph 5 of the Restriction Requirement. Applicants agree that claim 19 should be examined with the claims of Group I.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would

encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

II. Election of Species

Applicants note that upon allowance of a generic claim, the additional Species Ib should be rejoined with the application and similarly allowed.

III. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction and Election of Species Requirement are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 21, 2003

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